

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2207**

August 31, 2010

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Solis:

It has been brought to my attention that Hallmark Industrial, LLC, a Texas-based oil spill cleanup contractor, may have hired hundreds of undocumented workers to assist EPA-led cleanup efforts in connection with the July 26, 2010 Enbridge oil pipeline rupture near Marshall, Michigan. In addition, sources indicate that site supervisors consistently ignore basic work-safety requirements and expose workers to extremely hazardous substances without proper safety precautions. I am aware that this is not the first time Hallmark Industrial, LLC has come under scrutiny regarding possible immigration violations, and am concerned about the level of knowledge Enbridge had in employing these workers, and how the EPA in managing the cleanup was not positioned to keep this from happening.

At a time when unemployment in Calhoun County is over 13%, and national unemployment hovers over 10%, I am outraged at the lack of oversight that could lead to a government-led cleanup effort employing workers without documentation and without certification to safely complete the work. The spill is the largest oil spill ever to strike the Midwest. Certainly, with a spill this large, it could have been anticipated that hundreds of workers would be needed to address the spill. While I hoped that this problem could have been avoided, I ask that you take all necessary steps to remedy this situation.

To that end, I request that the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau launch an immediate investigation to ensure that those responsible are held accountable, and that measures are taken to ensure that this never happens again. Further, I ask you to investigate whether Enbridge turned a blind eye or should have known that Hallmark was employing workers without documentation or certification.

Lastly, I ask that you investigate the full range of compliance issues implicated by these accusations, including visa status, reporting procedures, documentation of status, posting requirements, and tax reporting and compliance.

Enclosed you will find a news article from the Michigan Messenger that I believe will assist with your investigation.

If you have any questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Ken Brock in my Jackson, Michigan District Office at (517) 780-9075. Thank you for your expeditious handling of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Schauer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "S".

Mark H. Schauer  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Jackson, the Honorable Susan Hedman, the Honorable Mark Durno, the Honorable David Michaels, the Honorable Janet Napolitano, Mr. Patrick D. Daniel